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### **BLM Approves Fire/Fuels Management Plan**

The Bureau of Land Management has approved a plan for fire and fuels management on BLM-managed public lands in Montana and the Dakotas. The decision affects approximately 8.4 million acres in the three states.

The decision amends all BLM resource management plans to provide consistent fire management direction and include new guidance for fire management. It also revises specific land use plan decisions to improve BLM's ability to conduct safe and efficient treatments of hazardous fuels. The proposed fire and fuels management would increase protection of human life and decrease natural resource and private property damage.

In July, the agency released its Environmental Assessment and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments which described and analyzed the impacts of fire management alternatives and updated the BLM's fire and fuels management practices to better achieve the goals of the National Fire Plan. Past policies and activities have either moderately or significantly altered the fire regimes and frequencies on about 1.3 million of the 8.4 million acres of public lands in Montana and the Dakotas.

Copies of the document are available from the BLM or on the internet at [www.mt.blm.gov](http://www.mt.blm.gov). For more information, contact John Thompson at 406/896-5030.

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